



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 13, 2004

H.R. 1787

Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 8, 2004

H.R. 1787 would provide immunity to persons who donate fire control or fire rescue equipment to volunteer fire departments from liability in certain civil suits alleging harm from the use of the donated equipment.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would result in no costs to the federal government. H.R. 1787 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1787 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, but CBO estimates that the costs, if any, would not be significant and would be well below the threshold established in that act (\$60 million in 2004, adjusted annually for inflation). Specifically, the bill would exempt certain individuals who donate fire control or rescue equipment from liability under state tort laws for injuries and damages that equipment may cause. In addition, some state and local fire departments that donate used equipment would benefit from this liability exemption. The bill contains no new private-sector mandates.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette J. Walker (for federal costs) and Melissa Merrell (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.